

GREEN transmissions

September/October 1995

New Minister at the helm



The Honourable Brenda Elliott was named Minister of Environment and Energy June 26, 1995, shortly after her election to the Ontario Legislature as MPP for Guelph.

INSIDE

- ② MOEE's lane on the info highway
- ③ Central Region: Home Sweet Home
- ④ Introducing the new Deputy Minister

Minister Brenda Elliott and Parliamentary Assistant Douglas Galt share a joke with Pat Vecchiarelli.

Dear Staff,

It is hard for me to believe that three months have passed since I was sworn in as Minister of Environment and Energy on June 26. I have met many staff already, during the briefings that have so far occupied the bulk of my time, and in a walkabout at 135 St. Clair. However, I know that there are still many more people who are making their contribution. This letter is meant to help us get acquainted until I have the chance to meet more of you personally.

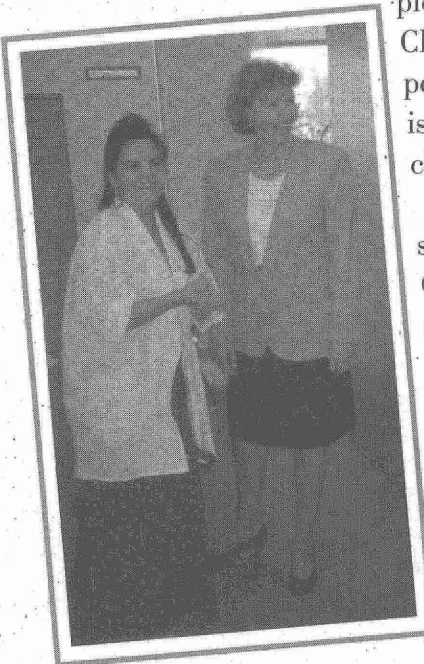
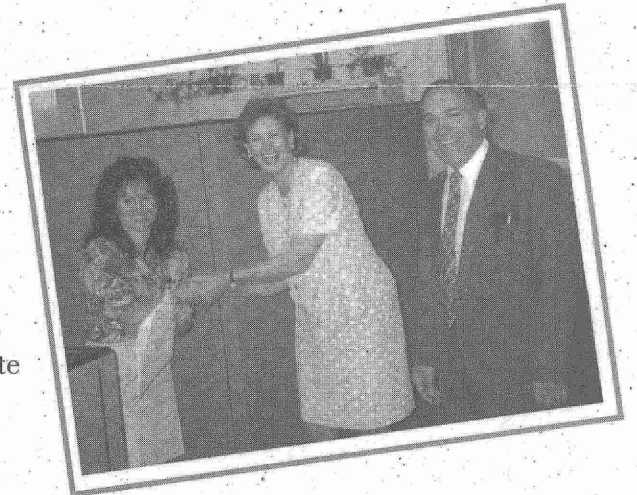
To give you a little background: I have taught school, and worked as a librarian for the Wellington County Board of Education. I was a founding member of the Guelph Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy, and of the Speed River Land Trust. As the mother of four, I was a member of the Brock Road Parent-Teacher Association. I also opened and operated the first environmental store in Canada (although I am necessarily divesting myself of this interest since becoming a minister of the Crown).

It is an honour to have been appointed to the Environment and Energy portfolio. As a concerned resident of Guelph, I have long worked with neighbours and colleagues in the belief that our environment must be protected and our energy supplies wisely used. Now, as minister, I have the opportunity to work for those beliefs with dedicated and talented people throughout the ministry, for the benefit of all Ontarians. I look forward to this work with interest and enthusiasm.

At the same time, I can appreciate that many of you must be feeling some

uncertainty about the future in light of the government's plans to reduce the size of the civil service. I want to emphasize that it is not simply a matter of downsizing. What we really want to do is to make the business of government as efficient as it can be. We want to ensure that our collective energy and ability focuses on those activities that really produce results — in our case, those activities that enable a well-operated ministry to most effectively protect our environment and our energy resources. I believe this is a sound approach to good government. The process of change will not be without its impacts. There will be difficult decisions to make. However, we are committed to making the right decisions, and to making them with reason and sensitivity.

As I mentioned, I have already begun a walkabout in the ministry's Toronto locations, and will be travelling to the regional and district offices. My Parliamentary Assistant for Environment, Doug Galt, will visit as well. I want to meet as many of you as possible, and get to know the people who make the ministry work. In the meantime, let me say again how happy I am to be among you.



▲ Minister Brenda Elliott meets Betty Wilson in a walkabout at 135 St. Clair.



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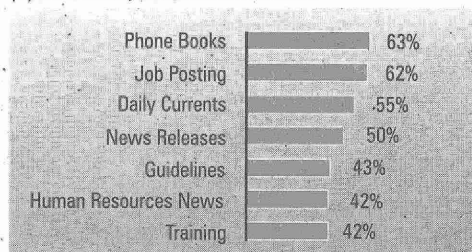
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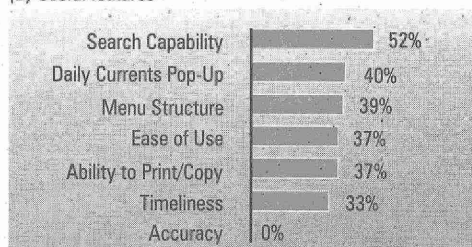
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Riding on the Information Highway

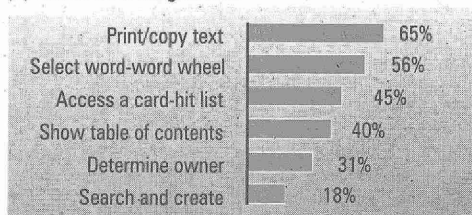
(A) Documents used most on InfoShare



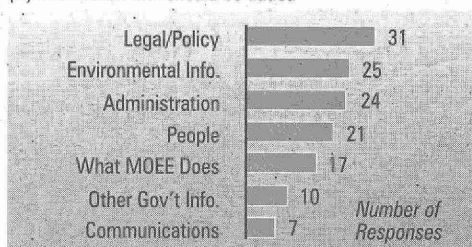
(B) Useful features



(C) Additional training needed



(D) Information that should be added



THE ADDITION OF *InfoShare* to the ministry's information network has put MOEE on the road to the information super highway. There are many entry and exit ramps on that super highway and *InfoShare* is one of them.

For those of you who are not yet familiar with *InfoShare*, it is a document delivery and access system that currently reaches more than 2,000 ministry staff connected to MOEE's province-wide computer network. *InfoShare* was a joint initiative of the Fiscal Planning and Information Management Branch and the Public Affairs and Communications Branch. Planning began in late 1993, and a pilot version was tested in Toronto between March and June 1994. Once the successful pilot was completed, *InfoShare* was phased in at MOEE's branches and offices across the province and by the end of December 1994, full service was available throughout the ministry.

Also in December 1994, *InfoShare* was at the Ontario Public Service (OPS) customer service week innovation fair. An article appeared in *Topical* touting it as a tool that would boost staff efficiency and provide quick access to accurate information leading to better customer service.

A few months after its implementation throughout most of the ministry, a pilot survey was conducted to determine how *InfoShare* was being used and where improvements could be made.

The responses suggested that most staff view *InfoShare* as a valuable source of information, which is distributed in a practical way. Many people indicated that the Daily Currents and the News Release

options were an excellent means to keep them abreast of MOEE issues. In addition, 63 per cent of the users found that the phone book option was a quick and easy method to access staff information (Graph A). Although the comments were generally positive, staff did express concern about the accuracy and currency of the information provided on *InfoShare* (Graph B).

And some respondents felt that training and or assistance was needed. Suggestions ranged from formal training sessions to online help. Given that only 65 per cent of users can print or copy text found in *InfoShare*, there appears to be a need for more instructional information on the use of this invaluable tool. The possibility of an *InfoShare* hotline (Graph C) was also raised. Respondents want to see more environmental information and a more detailed description of what MOEE does (Graph D).

In response to these suggestions, a training plan for users of *InfoShare* will soon be developed. Also, an online guide to *InfoShare* has been drafted and will be available both online and in hard copy to help users become more familiar with the *InfoShare* program.

To ensure that information on *InfoShare* is current and accurate, all branches that provide information to the *InfoShare* program are being consulted to update material.

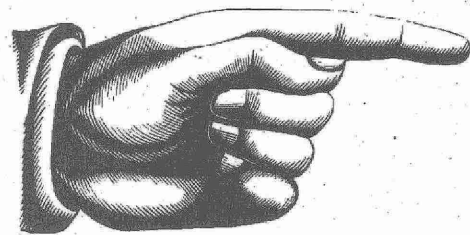
Some offices such as smaller agencies, boards and committees, the Ontario Clean Water Agency, and district sub-offices do not have direct access to *InfoShare* yet. Steps have been taken to provide dial-in access for users who are not on the MOEE Wide Area Network.

Over the next few months each of us will have an opportunity to become more comfortable with *InfoShare* and another survey is planned in the future. The next survey will provide users with a say in the content and direction of *InfoShare*. Once the responses are evaluated, the ministry will then focus its attention on the issues that staff have identified and fashion *InfoShare* into an information roadway which provides exceptional customer service. ■

HERE COMES EECO '95

It'll soon be that time again. Time for the Environment and Energy Conference of Ontario (EECO). This year's conference is bigger and better than ever. It has expanded from two to three days and will take place from October 31 to November 2 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. The event features up to 175 verbal presentations and more than 100 poster and exhibit displays. Both the Premier and the Minister are expected to attend.

Like last year, this year's conference is being coordinated by the Environmental Technology Unit, managed by George Zegarac. Since the section is now part of the Industry Conservation Branch, Linda Ploeger, the branch director, will be the conference chair. As in previous years, the Public Affairs and Communications Branch, the Green Industry Office and just about every other ministry branch will also have a hand in staging what is now Ontario's largest and most comprehensive environment and energy forum. If you want to know more about EECO '95, call Roger Scott at (416) 327-8073 or Kirsten Mania at (416) 327-8072.



SHOT

GIVE
US
YOUR
BEST

HEY YOU OUT THERE.

Have you got a picture, story or an envirotip that we can use? *Green Transmissions* is looking for material for upcoming issues. We'd especially like to hear from the regions. If you'd like to contribute, and we hope you will, contact Linda Cooper at (416) 323-5956 or by email at ENV2N03: COOPERLI. You might even win a prize!

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Editor: Linda Cooper

Layout: Doug Darrah

Photographers: Tessa Buchan, Linda Cooper & Doug Darrah

Contributors: Kathy Nosich, Maria Vucajnk & Padma deSouza

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through its people. It is printed on 100 per cent post consumer recycled stock.

Green Transmissions welcomes letters, photographs and stories. Be sure to provide contact names and telephone numbers with your stories and letters. Black and white photographs are preferred. If black and white photos are not available, please send negatives with colour prints. Please give six to eight weeks notice for upcoming events to ensure that they are reported in a timely fashion.

Address correspondence to:

Green Transmissions
Public Affairs and
Communications Branch
Ministry of Environment and
Energy
2nd Floor, 135 St Clair
Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario M4V 1P5
Telephone: (416) 323-5956
Fax: (416) 323-4643
Email Address: COOPERLI
@ENVPAEN1

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*The Way to
Help the Most*

It's United Way time
again and this year your
help is needed even more
than ever. So give gener-
ously when a canvasser
calls on you and support
the upcoming United Way
special events.

Home Sweet Home



Central Region Director David Crump cuts the ribbon to officially open Central Region's new home.

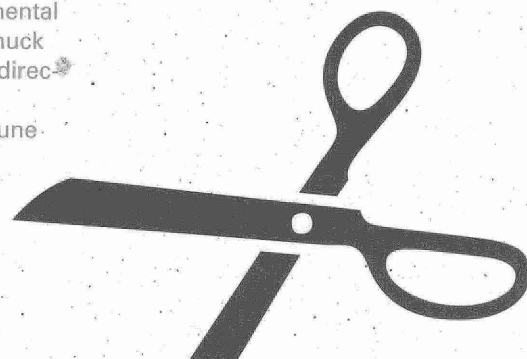
HR Chatter...

HR Chatter is a new feature of Green Transmissions to keep you up to date on happenings around the ministry.

Bob Breeze became the new director of the Waste Reduction Branch replacing Marylee O'Neill, who went to the Ministry of the Attorney General. Bob has a broad range of program and policy experience in waste management issues... Ed Gill is the new assistant director for West Central Region. Previously, he was the manager of the Environmental Bill of Rights office... Chuck Pautler became the new director of the Environmental Assessment Branch on June 19. Chuck left the Public Affairs and Communications Branch (PACB) where he was director for 19 months...

Tom Coleman, a veteran of the public service is the new acting director of PACB.

Jim Richardson is the new assistant director for Southwest Region. Jim has held various positions in the Operations Division. Most recently he was the acting manager of the Technical Support section in Central Region... The Industry Conservation Branch (ICB) welcomed George Zegarac as the new manager of the Industry Operations Unit in June. The Environmental Technologies section also joined the ICB at 56 Wellesley ■



TOWARDS CLEANER AIR

Did you know that one bus load of passengers removes 40 vehicles from the road, saves 70,000 litres of fuel and avoids 9,000 kilograms of air pollutants a year?

- Walk, cycle or use public transit whenever possible or organize a carpool. Two people in a vehicle cuts the fuel consumption per person in half.
- Keep your car tuned up. A poorly tuned engine can use up to 10 per cent more fuel and results in more pollution emissions to the environment.
- Drive at moderate speeds. Optimum fuel economy for most vehicles is between 50 and 70 km/hr. Reducing speed from 100 to 80 km/hr reduces fuel consumption by 15 to 20 per cent.
- Check your tires regularly. Tire drag due to under-inflation increases fuel consumption by four to eight per cent.

ENERGY MATTERS

Did you know that province-wide energy savings of \$475 million could be achieved if all Ontario homeowners reduced their annual energy consumption by just 20 per cent? The energy saved would be enough to heat the homes of two million people.

- Turn off the lights when you leave a room.
- Use sun power on a nice day and hang your laundry outside to dry.
- When choosing appliances, the most energy efficient models can be selected with the help of the EnerGuide label -- the lower the rating, the less energy used.
- Get back to basics. Push mowers and hand tools do the same job and reduce your power bills.
- Today's new compact fluorescent bulbs last up to 10 times longer than ordinary incandescent bulbs -- and use about one quarter of the energy. So while they cost more to buy, they save you money in the long run.
- When renovating your home, think green. Energy-efficient windows, solar hot water systems and better weather stripping and caulking save energy and money.
- Instead of turning up the thermostat when you feel a chill, try throwing on a sweater.

PRACTICE THE 3Rs TO REDUCE, REUSE AND RECYCLE WASTE

Did you know that the average family of four throws out 940 kilograms of waste a year?

- Avoid single-serving containers. Individual packets of salt, ketchup and other condiments not only produce a lot of waste but they also cost more than bulk containers.
- The average Canadian wastes 73 kilograms of paper each year. Use cloth towels and rags that are reusable instead of paper.
- Get into composting. Thirty per cent of our waste stream is organic such as leaves, grass clippings and food waste. By using your composter, you can cut your garbage by at least one-third and use the compost to improve your garden and lawn.
- Use natural cleaners. Common household products like baking soda, vinegar, salt and lemon juice can keep your home clean and smelling fresh without using harmful chemicals.
- Get your friends and neighbours together and organize a yard sale of used clothing, appliances, books, magazines and other goods. Let someone else enjoy your old belongings.
- Reuse old holiday or birthday cards. Turn them into postcards or gift tags.
- Use your Blue Box for items such as newspapers, tin cans, glass bottles and plastic soft drink bottles. The average Ontarian produces about 750 kilograms of garbage every year. And just think, by recycling 1,000 kilograms of newspapers, you save 19 trees.
- Buy drinks in returnable or recyclable bottles.
- For indoors, get a vermicomposter. Let worms such as red wigglers reduce your kitchen waste and turn it into a dark, nutrient-rich, sweet-smelling soil conditioner.

ENVIROTIPS

by Maria Vucajnk

It's up to all of us to take part in conserving and protecting the environment and energy. Here are some helpful tips on how to make a difference and save money at the same time.

CONSERVE AND PROTECT OUR WATER

Did you know that the average personal daily water consumption in Canada is 1,000 litres? In Kenya, it's three litres.

- By installing a low-flow shower head you help conserve water and help yourself to up to \$80 in energy savings each year! Keeping showers to five minutes or less will also help to lessen your energy bills.
- A water faucet that drips one drop per second can waste as much as 9,600 litres of water per year.
- The annual amount of water saved by rinsing a toothbrush in a glass of water instead of running the tap is 4,000 litres.
- Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator so you won't have to run tap water each time you want a glass of cold water.
- Bigger loads are better. Conserve water and energy by running your dishwasher or washing machine with full loads only and on the shortest possible cycle.
- Choose phosphate-free cleaning products. Phosphates are nutrients that can harm lakes and waterways. They end up causing excessive growth of undesirable forms of algae.
- Adopt a section of a creek or waterfront and keep it free of garbage. Make it a family affair and turn an afternoon walk into a garbage hunt.

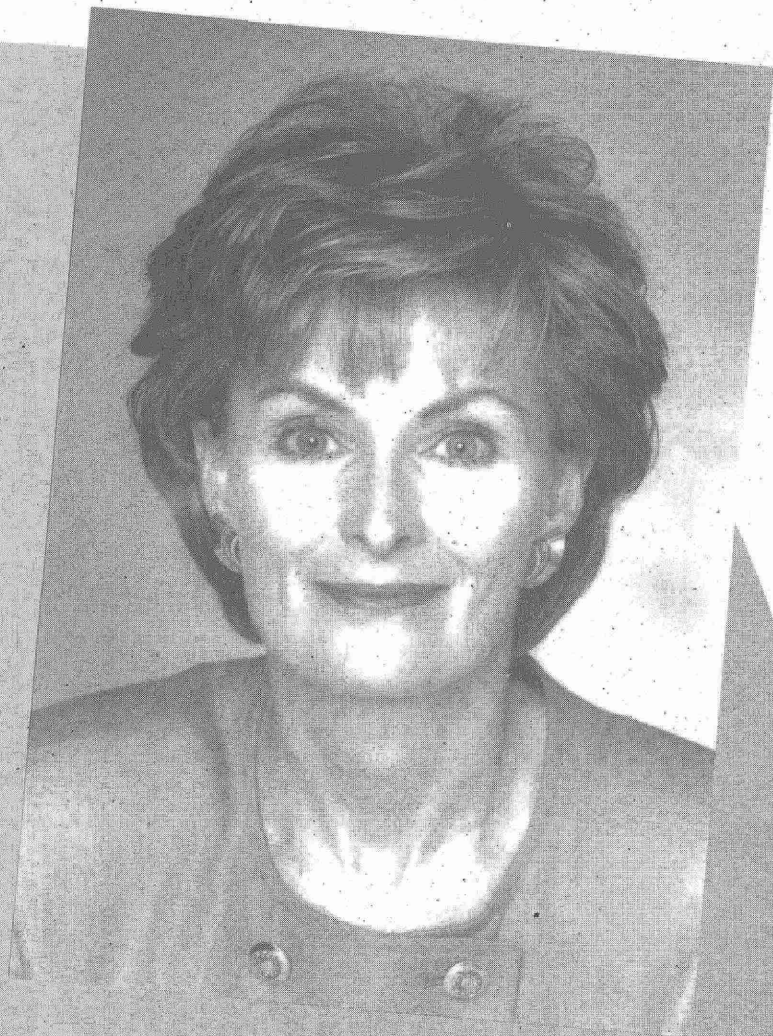
Hello...

Linda Stevens may still be

getting her feet wet since being appointed Deputy Minister of MOEE July 31, but she's certainly no stranger to the OPS or the ministry.

During her more than 20 years with the Ontario government, Ms. Stevens has held several senior positions in the Cabinet Office, the ministries of the Environment, Housing, Municipal Affairs and the former ministries of Treasury, Economics and Industry and Tourism.

As Deputy Minister of MOEE, Ms. Stevens serves on the boards of Ontario Hydro and the Ontario Clean Water Agency.



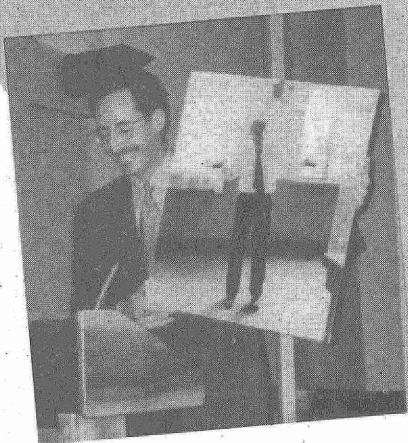
... Goodbye

Richard Dicerni described his three years as

the Deputy Minister of Environment and Energy as "fascinating, fulfilling, and on most days, very enjoyable".

A career public administrator, Mr. Dicerni has faced many challenges along the way in both the federal and provincial civil service. On July 31, he took on yet another challenge, becoming the Deputy Minister of Education and Training. ■

Peter Constantinou presents Richard Dicerni with a parting memento. ➤



➤ Richard Dicerni chats with some of the guests at his farewell reception.



Tip o' the Hat

by Kathy Nosich

SOME WALKED, some bowled, and some ate their weight in chocolate. In the end, a lot of money was raised for the 15 Federated Health charities.

Once again this year, MOEE employees across the Greater Toronto Area volunteered their time and dug deep into their pockets to make the 1995 Federated Health Campaign (FHC) a great success.



With more than \$72,000 raised, FHC's Chair Mary Trudell could not be more pleased: "We were always confident that we would reach our target of \$58,000. The icing on the cake was finding out we'd far surpassed our target, as well as last year's impressive total of \$70,000."

Mary added, "It's not really surprising when you see some of the canvassers and volunteers in action. One of our canvassers was even spotted selling chocolate almonds to passers-by at Yonge and Eglinton."

Thanks to the efforts of all the team captains, canvassers, and the 1995 Executive Team, the Federated Health charities will be better able to serve the people of Ontario by funding research projects and education and patient care programs. A tip of the hat to all those involved for a job well done. ■